

August 25, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced today that Broome County was named a primary natural disaster area by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and will now be eligible for federal disaster relief benefits to help farmers and growers recover from the extensive damage caused by frost and high winds between May 16th and May 26th, 2009.

"Providing much needed assistance to our region's farmers and growers is critical in helping them recover their losses from the damaging weather in May," **Arcuri said**, "Agriculture is the number one industry in New York State and I am glad that the USDA is helping to protect our farmers. In this difficult economic climate, our agriculture industry has been hit especially hard and when coupled with large-scale crop loss we need to do whatever we can to ensure that we do not lose our family farms."

Broome County was named a primary natural disaster area and will be eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans (EM) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) that was approved as part of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. While EM loans are immediately available to producers in these counties, FSA is in the process of developing regulations and software for the SURE program that will be available later this year. The USDA also designated Cortland, Chenango, Delaware and Tioga counties as eligible for the same federal funding as Broome County because they are contiguous to Broome.

To discuss eligibility requirements and application information, producers should contact their state or local FSA offices using the information below:

Farm Service Agency State Office
New York State
441 S Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13202-2450
(315) 477-6303

Broome County FSA

1163 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, NY 13905-1542
(607) 723-1384

Chenango County FSA
99 North Broad Street
Norwich, NY 13815-1387
607) 334-3231

Cortland County FSA
First Niagara Building,
1 North Main Street
Cortland, NY 13045
607) 753-0851 ext 2

Delaware County FSA
44 West Street
Walton, NY 13856-1041
(607) 865-4005

Tioga County FSA
109A Chemung Street
Waverly, NY 14892-1306
(607) 565-2106

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